

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A barbecue cooking device (1) comprising:

- an inverted frustum casing (10) of a given height (11), having a base wall (20), an open top (30) and a slanted side wall (40) section extending from the base wall (20) to the top (30) and having an inner surface (50) made of a material capable of reflecting radiant energy;

- a grill (60) mountable on the open top (30);

- a cup-shaped burner (70) with a bottom wall (72) and a side wall section (74), the burner (70) comprising:

- a combustion chamber (76) in an upper portion thereof for burning a combustible material, thereby emitting thermal energy;

- an air chamber (78) located beneath the combustion chamber (76), the air chamber (78) having an air intake (82) for receiving air; and

- a diffuser plate (79) separating the combustion chamber (76) and the air chamber (78); and

- a blower (90), operatively connected to the air intake (82) of the air chamber (78) to provide forced-air to the air chamber (78); the barbecue cooking device (1) being characterized in that:

- the side wall section (40) of the casing (10) extends at an angle ranging from about 135 degrees to about 110 degrees with respect to the base wall (20) of the casing (10);

- the burner (70) is located inside the casing (10) with said side wall section (74) of the burner (70) spanning the height (11) of the casing (10) such that most of the thermal energy emitted by the combustion chamber (76) radiate radially

towards the slanted side wall section (40) of the casing (10) where it is reflected towards the grill (60) mounted on the top of the casing (10); and

-the blower (90) is part of a ventilation system (91) that further comprises:

-a pressurized air chamber (95) located downstream of the blower (90), said pressurized air chamber (95) having an outlet end (93) distal from the blower (90); and

-an air intake tube (98) having an open top end (99) secured to the air intake (82) of the air chamber (78); and an open bottom end (92) adapted to be connected to the outlet end (93) of the pressurized air chamber (95).

2. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that said invented frustum casing (10) has an inverted pyramidal shape.

3. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the burner (70) has a generally tubular shape with a round bottom wall (72).

4. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the burner (70) has generally rectangular shape with a round bottom wall (72).

5. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the base wall (20) of the casing (10) has given surface area and the bottom wall (72) of the burner (70) covers from than 50% of said surface area.

6. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 5, characterized in that the bottom wall (72) of the burner (70) covers more than 75% of the surface area of the base wall (20).

7. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a heat deflecting shield (100) mountable beneath the grill (60) on top of the burner (70) for defeating flames emitted from the burner (70).

8. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 7, characterized in that the deflecting shield (100) is provided with slits (102).

9. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 8, wherein the grill (60) has a given surface area and the barbecue is characterized in that the deflecting shield (100) is sized to cover substantially all of said surface area of the grill (60), for diffusing the thermal energy reflected towards the grill (60).

10. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 9, characterized in that the deflecting shield (100) has a central portion (104) free of said slits (102), and a peripheral portion (106) having a series of longitudinal slits (102), the central portion (104) being located on top of the burner (70) when the shield (100) is mounted beneath the grill (60).

11. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to claim 10, wherein the grill (60) comprises a series of longitudinal slots (108), the longitudinal slits (102) of the shield (100) being in a staggered arrangement with respect to the longitudinal slots (108) of the deflecting shield (100).

12. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (1) according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that said angle is 120 degrees.

13. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (~~1~~) according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises means for cooling the slanted wall section (~~40~~).

14. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking device (~~1~~) according to claim 13, characterized in that the cooling means comprises an air inlet (~~110~~) located in a lower portion of the slanted wall section (~~40~~) for allowing air to enter into the casing (~~10~~) and an air outlet (~~120~~) located in an upper portion of the slanted wall section (~~40~~) for allowing air to exit the casing (~~10~~), thereby allowing a flow of air that cools the slanted wall section (~~4~~).

15. (Currently amended) The barbecue cooking apparatus (~~1~~) according to claim 14, characterized in that the air inlet (~~110~~) and the air outlet (~~120~~) consist of a plurality of openings provided in the slanted side wall (~~40~~).

16. (Newly added) The barbecue cooking device according to claim 2, characterized in that the base wall of the casing has given surface area and the bottom wall of the burner covers from than 50% of said surface area.

17. (Newly added) The barbecue cooking device according to claim 3, characterized in that the base wall of the casing has given surface area and the bottom wall of the burner covers from than 50% of said surface area.

18. (Newly added) The barbecue cooking device according to claim 4, characterized in that the base wall of the casing has given surface area and the bottom wall of the burner covers from than 50% of said surface area.